

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 5, 6, 8, 12, 17, 18, 20, 24-26 and 28 were objected to but indicated to be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the limitations of rejected base claims and intervening claims. This is held in abeyance at this time.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-11, 13-16, 19, 21-23 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 in view of U.S. Patent 6,461,082 to Smith.

New claim 29 features a composite sacrificial anode for immersion in a corrosive environment, comprising at least two casting segments comprised of sacrificial material, an electrical connector at least partly within each corresponding casting segment for attachment to a structure to be protected, each casting segment including exterior surfaces and at least one interior surface, each said interior surface of each said casting segment being spaced apart from said interior surface of another said casting segment forming a gap therebetween, wherein said gap is sufficiently small effective to protect said interior surfaces from corrosion by the environment, an electrically insulating waterproof layer being disposed in each of said gaps, and said electrical connectors of each of the casting segments are connected electrically together. The features of this claim are not disclosed by Smith.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 38259.

Respectfully submitted,
PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By: /paul a. serbinowski/
Paul A. Serbinowski, Reg. No. 34429

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

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